

MINUTES – MEETING MAY 10TH

BROOKS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Jack Harrell called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Board members John LaHood, Tim Crosby, Erin McKenzie, Marie Horne, and Jack Harrell attended, along with Director Stephanie Mata.

Minutes

Copies of the minutes of the (special called) monthly meeting held April 8th as well as the regular meeting held April 12th and the second Special Called meeting held April 15th were reviewed. Tim Crosby motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting as presented; seconded by Erin McKenzie; unanimously accepted.

Appearances

Director Mata introduced Special Counsel David Rose to the Board. Mr. Rose gave a brief explanation that both he and Nextera (along with newly appointed counsel, Jack Langdale), had come to an agreement to terms within the bond, with one issue remaining- the Indemnity Clause- which he expected to have cleared up within the next few days. Mr. Rose also expressed that there would be a need for a Special Called meeting the next week to sign the agreement. John LaHood inquired of Mr. Rose the reason the “hang up” in the proceeding of Bond. Mr. Rose replied that the reasons were two-fold: One, to gain a clear understanding of the financial benefit to the county and the people of Brooks County by the installation of the solar farm, and two, any future environmental impairment to the County by the solar farm. He explained that they were presently negotiating the environmental aspects to the Bond, including monitoring wells to monitor for any possible water contamination. Mr. Rose reiterated the importance of such, as Brooks County is situated over an aquifer that feeds into the State of Florida, as well as supplies water to a primarily agrarian county.

“As far as tax revenue over the life of the project, it’s expected to be in the estimated range of about \$8.7 Million dollars that Brooks County will realize from the project.” Leone also stated that while it was previously estimated that employment will be about 200 to 300 jobs, new estimates are closer to 400 temporary construction jobs. Mr. Leone stated that the Carpenter’s Union who is doing the hiring had some flyers up in some local businesses as well as an advertisement on the radio. Director Mata reiterated that there is a difference in “local union” jobs and local jobs and inquired as to what other means of advertising have they done and asked whether they had advertised in our local paper “The Quitman Free Press”. Leone responded that the union does the hiring and the Union had already done radio advertising and put some flyers around town, and that they had not advertised with the QFP but would look in to it. Harrell asked about the number of Brooks County residents employed, but Leone did not have an accurate number at that time. John LaHood asked about the qualifications and compensation of said employees, to which Leone stated that they only need a high school diploma. Workers would be trained and while he didn’t know the rate of pay, he assured the Board that it was a livable wage.

Financials

Mr. Harrell moved to the acceptance of the financials. After a thorough review of the financials, Tim Crosby motioned to accept the financials; seconded by Derren Yearby; unanimously approved.

Old Business

Jack Harrell moved to Old Business. Mr. Ben DeVane gave an update for the Industrial Park signage. Mr. DeVane stated that he and the contractor would be meeting at the site in the next few days to mark the area so that construction could begin.

New Business

Chairman Jack Harrell moved to New Business Director Mata reminded the Board that when the Special Projects grants were created, the Board designed the grants so that non-profits could not reapply but once every three years to allow for other businesses to be able to take advantage of the opportunity. She further explained the significant benefit that Philanthro Films brings to Brooks County, and that while were requesting a grant to rebuild the small building outside the main facility to an office. The Board discussed the issue, and decided to table the grant. Motion to Table carried by Erin McKenzie; seconded by Derren Yearby; unanimously approved.

Reports

Director Mata reported that the YOT Waters signs were scheduled to be installed May 28th.

Motion to go into Executive Session carried by Derren Yearby; seconded by Erin McKenzie; unanimously approved.

Motion to adjourn carried by Marie Horne; seconded by Erin McKenzie; unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted:

Secretary